


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: April 20, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IV: Consideration of resolution authorizing a sole source contract with Topanga Anthropological Consultants for an archaeological assessment of King Gillette Ranch area pursuant to the MRCA - National Park Service Task Agreement for Gillette Ranch Planning.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a sole source contract with Topanga Anthropological Consultants, Chester King, Ph.D., for an archaeological assessment in the amount of \$5,000, pursuant to MRCA-NPS Task Agreement Number J8544050051.

Background: As part of the King Gillette Ranch park agencies' planning process, a number of studies must be performed to fully inform additional constraints analyses planning, a National Register of Historic Places designation, and for subsequent CEQA and NEPA documents. Dr. King is widely recognized as the most credible expert in Chumash archaeology in the Santa Monica Mountains area and is already under contract with the National Park Service and MRCA for post-fire cultural resources survey work in the National Recreation Area and Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve.

Staff seeks approval to enter into a contract with Dr. King for the survey work, in an amount of \$5,000. The funding source is Task Agreement #J8544050051 between the National Park Service and MRCA for King Gillette Ranch Planning.

The following scope of work was developed by NPS and is included here as additional background:

Scope of Work

Archeological Assessment of King Gillette Ranch, California

The scope of work for an assessment of archeological resources is provided as a subcontract under the general Scope of Work for the Determination of Eligibility for the Gillette Ranch Property.

Tasks and Deliverables

1. Conduct an archeological records search at the South Coast Central Archeological Clearing House at Cal State Fullerton University for all archeological site records and survey reports located within 1 mile of the central building cluster of the Gillette Ranch.
2. Contact CA DPR (Mike Sampson and Jim Newland) for copies of archeological & historical reports relating to Sepulveda Adobe and/or related areas.
3. Review all literature related to the area, and make a reasonable effort to locate unrecorded grey literature addressing resources in the area. Review reports by Singer, King, Falon, NPS (overviews), and by the CA DPR (Sepulveda Adobe Research).
4. Consult with Chumash individuals knowledgeable about the area, specific sites and their history. Audio record their observations and complete permission forms for the interview. The oral interviews do not need to be transcribed.
5. Consult historic maps on file at the NPS to identify the locations of non-extant buildings and features and survey these locations for traces. (May include use of metal detectors.)
6. Conduct archeological survey of road cuts, stream banks, trails, ridgelines, and sites of known, but non-extant features. Ground truth known sites and search for any newly exposed sites. Most sites are probably at least partially buried. The survey director must coordinate with the NPS to arrange physical access to the grounds. See attached map of area for survey boundaries. Intensive transects are not necessary. The survey will be for indigenous, ethnographic, and historic resources. In addition to indigenous sites, the surveyors should note foundations,

drainage, old roads, traces of airport, etc. In particular, a possible cemetery should be investigated (see NPS map files).

7. Update existing site records for known sites as appropriate. Because the survey area is larger than previous surveys, new sites and historic features may be discovered. Creating new site records for newly discovered sites will be covered by an amendment to this contract.

8. Collect any diagnostic artifacts found and fill out artifact identification sheets.

9. Create a confidential map (expanding on existing map) with probable boundaries of the known and/or discovered sites and indicate probable sensitive areas.

10. Provide recommendations for further research to clarify site boundaries, appropriate monitoring of ground-disturbance, and amount of testing needed for a full archeological DOE.

11. Deliverables Brief Survey Report meeting CA report guidelines (ARMOR)
 Updated Site Record Forms for known sites
 Collection of diagnostic artifacts and identification sheets
 Field Notes
 Photos
 Sketches
 Maps

12. The deliverable are due by 5-15-2006, or 60 days after award of contract, whichever is latest so that recommendations can be considered for Phase 2 planning.